



**SUBMITTED TO THE  
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
Tuesday, March 8, 2016**

**HB 5588, An Act Concerning The Timing of Payments From Supplemental  
Inpatient Payment Pools For Short-Term General Hospitals**

Yale New Haven Health System (YNHHS)-- Connecticut's 3<sup>rd</sup> largest employer with over 20,000 employees and 6300 medical staff appreciates the opportunity to offer testimony concerning **HB 5588, An Act Concerning The Timing of Payments From Supplemental Inpatient Payment Pools For Short-Term General Hospitals**

The Yale New Haven Health System, through Bridgeport, Greenwich and Yale-New Haven Hospitals, and their affiliated organizations, including the North East Medical Group, strives to provide access to high-quality, patient-centered care. We offer our patients a range of healthcare services, from primary care to the most complex care available anywhere in the world. Inside Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital, we care for more children than any other provider in the state. 55% of our kids are insured by Medicaid. We care for our State's most vulnerable population, by providing psychiatric care to children, young adults, adults and the elderly who come to us from every corner of Connecticut. The majority of these patients are insured by Medicaid.

The 3 YNHHS hospital affiliates care for more than one quarter of the State's Medicaid enrollees. Every day, our staff cares for individuals and families who lack access to medical, dental and mental health care. Our emergency departments are filled with individuals who do not have anywhere else to go for medical or mental health care. Last year, we provided thousands of psychiatric assessments to children in our emergency departments. This time of year, those in need of shelter come to us, largely through the emergency department. Many of these patients are covered by Medicaid and, while the benefit package is superior, access is limited. During the cold winter months, many come to us, not for medical care, but for shelter. The Medicaid population is steadily growing due to the expansion of eligibility, as is our Medicaid loss. With the additional cuts in December, Medicaid now reimburses us 31 cents per dollar of cost.

Last week, we were notified that Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management Benjamin Barnes ordered the Department of Social Services (DSS) to "hold on making any additional supplemental payments through either the inpatient supplemental pool or the small hospital pool." In addition, Secretary Barnes stated that he was "not optimistic that we will be able to move forward with any further state payments this fiscal year."

HB 5588 would require DSS make timely and adequate payments to hospitals from supplemental inpatient payment pools and to require that the money in the payment pools not be used for any other purpose.

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We acknowledge that the state is facing a challenging budget, but we have already been cut and taxed so significantly that it is hurting patient access, jobs, and our economy. YNHHS hospitals will pay \$182 million in taxes this year. The proposed budget includes a \$30 million cut to Medicaid, which taken together with the lost federal match, is a \$90 million impact on hospitals. The cuts included in the DMHAS and DDS budgets also impact us. When community based mental health programs are cut or eliminated, patients come to the emergency department. When detoxification beds are closed, patients stay longer in our acute psychiatric hospital. When DDS funds are cut, their clients become residents of our hospital. Patient access to appropriate levels of care is compromised and hospitals remain the safety net.

Please support HB 5588. Our patients, families and more than 20,000 employees are counting on your support. Thank you for your consideration.